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edge; *e. g.*, Judge Waite is apparently ignorant of the discovery of the "Gospel according to Peter," which he discusses as a lost document. In many places he betrays the fact that he has not kept up with the progress of the last decade. But many will welcome a new edition of a work which aroused so much interest, found so many admirers and excited such keen animosity.¹

REVIEWS.

La Génesis del Crimen en Mexico. Estudio de Psiquiatria Social.

By JULIO GUERRERO. Mexico and Paris (Bouret), 1901.

There is so great a dearth of literature bearing upon social conditions in the Valley of Mexico that we are inclined to consider any book upon the subject as a valuable contribution, and, as in the case of gift-horses, to refrain from being critical. The present book, however, despite certain faults of structure, and a certain laxity of statement, is an acute and masterly analysis of certain phases of social conditions in Mexico, and for that reason does not require any special leniency of judgment.

The chief factor in moulding the character of the inhabitants of the City and Valley of Mexico is stated to be the high altitude. The very great elevation of this plateau, combined with its tropical situation, causes an extreme rarification of the atmosphere and a great diminution in the amount of oxygen contained in a given volume of air. This has led to an organic laziness upon the part of the inhabitants, to a confirmed quietism and a consequent distaste and contempt for work. To the same cause Guerrero assigns the lack of civic valor, the political quiescence in the face of governmental or private oppression. The enervating effect of an extremely rarefied atmosphere is aggravated rather than assuaged by an excessive use of stimulants, notably of alcohol, coffee and tobacco, and in the dry season, the nervous tension becomes so great that no action is felt to be extravagant or extraordinary. In the dry season the nervous excitability of the inhabitants of the plateau is at its height, and for these months the statistics of crimes, especially those against persons, to which Mexicans are peculiarly liable, are considerably greater than during the rainy season of the year. To this nervous tension under which people on the plateau live, and which all physicians attest, Guerrero attributes in great measure the prevalent tendency toward hysteria, especially on the part of the women, and the strain of melancholy, which is reflected in all the poetry, music and art of the Mexicans.

In the second part of his book Guerrero deals largely with the effect of the nature of the territory upon the development of civiliza-

¹ Contributed by Professor Dana C. Munro, University of Pennsylvania.

tion on the plateau, and it may be said that from this point on, he almost entirely loses sight of his subject and incontinently wanders into frequent digressions, which though interesting, are not justified by the title of the book. In the part dealing with the territory of the Republic, the author shows how the policy of the Spanish Government to turn Mexico into a series of mining camps led to the concentration of the people and of the wealth and intellect of the country into a few widely separated cities, between which there was none but the worst conceivable means of communication. This isolation led to a comparative barbarism in the smaller cities, and above all as regards the rural populations furthest removed from the capital, to a low civilization, to an anarchical and irresponsible local government and to abuses of all sorts, while in republican times it induced revolution and disintegration, as was seen in the case of Texas. In the cities where population grew largely from natural increase, and from a fear of the insecure conditions prevailing in the country, the supply of labor became greater than the demand, wages fell, alimentation became poor, the standard of life was not raised, the population became degenerate, and the number of crimes rapidly increased. In a series of brilliant chapters Guerrero describes the classes of the city population, from which the criminals are largely recruited, comparing them with the other and non-criminal elements of the population. Another interesting portion of the book deals with the clash between the Roman Catholic Church and the spirit of skepticism, and the effect of this conflict upon the morals of the population.

The book is valuable as a series of brilliant but semi-independent essays rather than as a unified discussion of a single subject. The author possesses an admirable style, has great insight, and as a rule, good judgment, but the book suffers from being structureless and invertebrate.

WALTER E. WEYL.

Philadelphia.

Government or Human Evolution, Individualism and Collectivism.

By EDMOND KELLY, M. A., F. G. S. Pp. xv, 608. Price, \$2.50.
New York : Longmans, Green & Co., 1901.

The second volume of Mr. Kelly's work consistently follows out the methods and purposes of the first. The word "Government" in the title is not descriptive of the contents of the book, if the ordinary acceptance of that word be understood. However, it approaches nearer to a description of the contents of this volume than of the first, when allowance is made for the peculiar sense in which the word is used. Government covers "the whole field of human interference